



# The ISC Newsletter

International Society of Cryptozoology

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## Editor

J. Richard Greenwell

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## THE NESSIE DEBATE A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE LOCH NESS MONSTER DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF TIM DINSDALE



*The Royal Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh, where the Society's 1987 Membership Meeting was held. The first day of the meeting was taken up by the symposium "The Search for Nessie in the 1980's." The symposium ended with a panel discussion, the edited transcript of which appears below.*

*On July 25-26, 1987, the Society held its 6th Annual Membership Meeting in Edinburgh, hosted by the Royal Museum of Scotland/National Museums of Scotland. The meeting took the form of two symposia sponsored by both ISC and the Society for the History of Natural History (London). One symposium was on cryptozoological cats. The other symposium was titled "The Search for Nessie in the 1980's," and included presentations by the leading authorities on the subject (see Newsletter, Winter, 1987).*

*The proceedings of the Nessie symposium were subsequently published in the Centennial (1988) issue of the journal The Scottish Naturalist (see Newsletter, Autumn, 1989). This three-volume, 214-page publication is available to ISC members at the half-price cost of £11.50 or \$20 (postage included) from the publisher: Dr. Jack A. Gibson, Scottish Natural History Library, Foremount House, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA10 2EZ, U.K.*

*Following the symposium's formal presentations, a panel discussion was held; this included all seven speakers, and questions were accepted from the floor. This exchange, which was taped by the Editor, has been transcribed and edited for publication in the Newsletter, and may be considered complementary to the proceedings published in The Scottish Naturalist.*

*David Heppell, the Museum's curator of mollusca, served as the symposium chairman, and he also moderated the panel discussion. The participants were: American chemist and author Henry H. Bauer, who has documented the extensive Nessie literature; British engineer and author Tim Dinsdale, the most active fieldworker at the loch; British naturalist Richard Fitter, a founder of the 1960's Loch Ness Investigation Bureau; Canadian oceanographer Paul H. LeBlond, who has done analyses of lake monster photos; American biologist and author Roy P. Mackal, who was actively involved in the Bureau's 1960's work; American*



engineer and patent attorney Robert H. Rines, whose Academy of Applied Science group obtained the 1970's underwater photos; and British fieldworker Adrian Shine, who runs the Loch Ness and Morar Project.

*In most cases, the identity of those asking the questions is not discernible through the audiotapes. However, when the Editor was able to identify specific individuals, their names are indicated.*

*Tragically, Tim Dinsdale died several months after the symposium (see News-letter, Spring, 1988), before he was able to provide a written version of his talk for the published proceedings. Thus, publication of this panel discussion transcript is dedicated to his memory.*

**Question (Jack Gibson):** Concerning the Wilson photograph, this was supposedly taken on April 19, 1934. It has also been stated to have been early April, and some of us have had reason to believe that it was actually April 1, with all the significance which attaches to that. Any comments?

**Bauer:** Well, I've checked that fairly carefully. It was published in the Daily Mail on the 21st, and it was also mentioned in the New York Times around that time; that the photo had been taken within 2 days of that time. So, the 19th is correct.

**LeBlond:** Concerning my analysis of the wind waves visible in the photo, I heard that there were two possible dates, so

I requested the weather information for both the 1st and the 19th. And on the 1st, the weather was similar.

**Question:** If this animal is an air-breather, how often does it surface, and why are there not more sightings?

**Mackal:** I would like to call your attention to some other aquatic mammals, such as the Indian Ocean dugong. They surface every few minutes, and Bertram and Bertram tried unsuccessfully to observe these animals for 6 months. Yet the natives would go out at night and bring one in for food. It gives us a notion of how surreptitious air-breathing mammals can be. Why should they be so surreptitious? Have they evolved this in response to human presence? They have been around a long time when compared to humans, so I really don't know about that. But it doesn't preclude a comparison with Loch Ness, and I am not at all surprised that we do not see these animals more often at the surface.

I had an observation at Loch Ness in 1966, at about 200 feet from the main rig, but I dismissed it at the time. What I saw was a convex object the size of a dinner plate, black in color, with two small protruding vertical objects about an inch or two in diameter--I looked at this through 12-power binoculars. It was riding in the water, and it was clearly attached to a much larger mass; it wasn't bobbing up and down, and the wavelets were breaking over it; and then it submerged. Now, in hindsight, that may have been the top of the head of

one of these animals, and if those small vertical objects were breathing tubes or nostrils, they could be surfacing every 10 minutes and you wouldn't notice them.

**Question:** If these are large animals, are they permanent residents of the loch?

**Mackal:** My opinion is that they are marine animals, and are occasionally seen and interpreted as "sea serpents," but in many cases they go upriver to feed on migratory fish. If they get into a large lake, such as Okanagan, Champlain, or Loch Ness, they may remain for many seasons, perhaps for many years, or they may leave if the food supply gets scarce. For example, there are times when diseases develop and the salmon population goes way down. We have plenty of reports of such sightings in rivers leading to larger lakes, which is similar to what cetaceans are known to do, and conceivably what other fish predators might do also.

In my opinion, these animals move in and out of lakes as conditions require, or they may remain in them as semi-permanent residents. Some people have raised the question, at Okanagan Lake for example, that access to the sea is now blocked. Well, it depends on what the degree of difficulty is. If such animals are capable of moving over land for some distance, when pressed to do so, they will. Now, other people may have other ideas. I was able, with the Canadian lake-river system, to plot observations in rivers and lakes and correlate those with connections to the sea and migratory fish moving up these rivers. For me, that's a very impressive correlation.

**Heppell:** What about the likelihood of these animals being seen as they go up the River Ness to get into the loch?

**Mackal:** Well, there are some reports of that nature. Tim, I think you know more about those.

**Dinsdale:** There are two reports from the River Ness which seem to be reliable, if you can accept any report as being reasonably reliable. The accounts seem to indicate that something was in the river that was remarkably like Nessie. There is also a report from the Moray Firth, which is just around the



Roy P. Mackal



shore in the North Sea. A bather saw one of these animals approaching from the sea, and he made every effort to get out of the water quick. He described something that was very similar to Nessie. That's two in the river, and one in the salt water outside.

**Heppell:** Could some of the American 19th century "sea serpent" reports--where they were seen off the coast in the same area for some time--also be explained by this same hypothesis? Or would that be some other animal entirely?

**Mackal:** Well, we have a lot of marine and estuarine reports, such as in Chesapeake Bay, and Paul LeBlond has many reports from the West Coast of North America. As for Scotland, I also recall reports from marine Loch Linnhe and other Western Highland sea lochs.

**Rines:** I'd like to add something to that. Tim came to visit me in Massachusetts one year, and we interviewed some people in the U.S. Coast Guard. During World War II, they used to do a run along the Massachusetts Coast. One of these witnesses claimed to have seen something that is a dead ringer for what we think one of these animals looks like. They never got any photos, but I think it was recorded in the Coast Guard records.

**Question:** Could you tell us something about the Loch Ness archive that's being planned?

**Fitter:** Well, many of us who were associated with the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau in the 1960's, and others doing research over the years, have papers which eventually ought to find a suitable home somewhere, and I very much hope that it will be possible to set up such an archive. I have been in touch with Mrs. James, David James' widow, and she seemed disposed to placing his papers in such an archive. I very much hope that it will be possible to arrange something through the Scottish Natural History Library.

**Heppell:** I believe there are also plans to establish an archive at the Loch Ness Exhibition in Drumnadrochit. Is that correct?

**Anthony Harmsworth:** Yes, plans have

been rather hazy, but they are now firming up. Before long, we should have all the archive material that we currently hold--that is, all the Loch Ness and Morar Project material from over the years, plus other material such as that submitted by Dr. Rines--we will have all of this catalogued and micro-filmed, so that we can have two sets of records, with one kept in a safe place.

**Heppell:** And I believe there is also an archive here at the Museum, which Ian Lyster had in his charge at one time. I think some people have used it in the past. Photocopying would certainly help establish a corpus of material in one place.

**Question:** Dr. Rines mentioned some new technology which has recently been declassified by the U.S. Navy, which would make the lake look electronically transparent. As it has been declassified, can we hear some more about it?

**Rines:** The answer is "yes" and "no." Yes, it's been declassified, and no, I'm not talking about it.

**Question:** By Dores, on the southern shore of the loch--it narrows there into the River Ness--there's an area of probably about 500 yards where many things get washed up. Personally, I have seen red deer bones there, as well as sheep bones--lots of sheep bones. Is there any chance of bones from one of these animals being washed up in that place in particular, or anywhere else around the loch, or could there just be

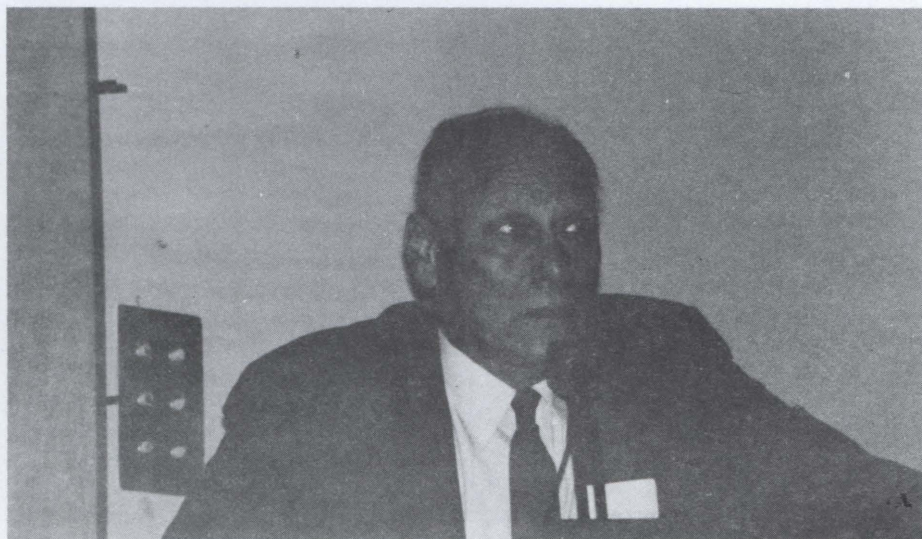
one or several long-lived creatures in there?

**Mackal:** My idea about remains is that, in a ligotrophic lake, where you have a very low temperature, carcasses normally become buoyant because they're sort of like balloons. Bacterial action releases gas which fills the carcass. The eel population is ubiquitous in the lake, and if there is a deep, cold lake, and a carcass is at the bottom, I suspect that the eel population would chomp away. If there is buoyancy, a carcass might come up 200-300 feet, but if there are 600-700 feet, I think it's a very improbable situation without a sloping beach, which Loch Ness does not have.

**Shine:** I would say that if anything was going to be washed ashore at Loch Ness, it would indeed be at the Dores end. Of course, the bones that have been seen there are of land animals. There is no doubt that anything dying deep down in the lake is most unlikely to come up to the surface.

**Question:** If there really are monsters in Loch Ness, why are there not thousands of remains found on the lake bottom?

**Shine:** Well, there should be, but we haven't really looked properly. I have tried to look for remains in Loch Morar with divers. We used a glass-bottomed boat in shallow water, and sent divers down to 100 feet, and we have dredged at depths of 1,000 feet. It was during the course of all this that I began to get



Robert H. Rines



interested in the community of animals on the bottom. Quite frankly, I would now be loath to put heavy dredging equipment on the bottom of Loch Ness. It would mean destroying a very interesting environment. I know that sounds like a bit of an excuse, but give us a little longer with our underwater television equipment, and we may indeed come across a carcass. We believe we see dead fish sometimes.

Heppell: All this implies that there is a resident population, of course, whereas Roy Mackal's hypothesis concerns a migrating population, which goes into the loch for a time, and then goes out again to sea, and does not necessarily die in the loch.

*(At this point, a brief pause was taken for Gordon R. Williamson to show a number of slides he had obtained of seals in Loch Ness.)*

Question: Having just seen these pictures, may I ask a question of Dr. Mackal, who was very positive and very definite in his talk about what he'd seen: a large animate object in the loch. Is he prepared to say that it was not a seal, and, further, can he say what he possibly thinks it might have been?

Mackal: I saw what I thought was a left pectoral flipper, and that could fit a number of different aquatic animals. I don't think that gets me any further. Now, pinnipeds are my second best choice as candidates for Nessie at the moment, but I think the size element is important here. Also, we would have to postulate a seal different in behavior from all the known species. Seals are curious animals, and often respond to whistles or other such noises. Then there is the shape of the flippers. The underwater pictures obtained by the Rines group show flippers similar to those found in other animals, and we would expect that; after all, propulsion and steering are universal in a water medium, although different adaptations occur.

Now, as far as what I saw, a length of 2-3 meters was showing above the surface, but of course that's just a part of the animal; it doesn't stop just where it hits the water line. The animal must have been much larger, at least double that size.

Fitter: Could I make a comment on that? It seems to me that records of seals, otters, red deer, or any other known mammals of the Scottish fauna seen in Loch Ness are complete red herrings because the majority of the sightings have been made by people who live around the loch, who are perfectly familiar with this normal Scottish fauna. I cannot believe that a great many of them would mistake the normal Scottish fauna for the extraordinary things that they report.

Comment (Harmsworth): When we get a seal in the loch, people come in and tell us that there is a seal in the loch. They don't come running into the Exhibition saying that they have just seen the Loch Ness Monster. People know seals from monsters. I would now like to ask Professor LeBlond a question. There is something that has always puzzled me about the two Wilson photographs. Have you looked at the wave patterns in both of them? Do they look as if they were taken at the same time? Some people have said that it looks as if they were two completely different bodies of water.

LeBlond: The second picture looks completely different from the first. I didn't do a detailed analysis, but, at a glance, it looks different to me.

Comment: Thanks to Henry Bauer's excellent bibliography, I was able to get hold of a lot of clippings from the Illustrated London News. One of them was an article by Richard Gordon printed in 1978, and there's just a little snippet in which Constance Whyte describes the surgeon who took the photograph, Colonel Wilson, as "a bit of a lad." I'm sorry if that rocks the boat at all for people who pinned their faith on the photograph, but to any non-British people in the audience, "a bit of a lad" implies that one is capable of playing a prank on somebody. So, I am just offering that as another thing that is possible.

Question: I'd like to ask Dr. Rines about the extraordinary underwater photograph of what appears to be the head structure of one of these animals. Does that kind of head shape tie in with some of Dr. Mackal's ideas about what sort of creature it might be?

Rines: I am only a data-taker; I'm not an interpreter. I will say this: that certain friends at a museum which shall go unnamed said that, if we hadn't printed that particular "head" picture, they would have been a lot more sanguine about saying something about the other photos, but that isn't the way the head is supposed to look. There are some rather preconceived notions about how things are supposed to look.

Heppell: So they would rather you hadn't taken that one?

Rines: Yes, they would rather we hadn't taken it.

Fitter: I just wanted to say a word about Colonel Wilson and Constance Whyte's remark that he was "a bit of a lad." For those of us who remember the terminology of that time period, it is definite that she didn't mean that he was capable of playing a prank. What she meant by it was that he had an eye for the ladies. *(Laughter)*

Question (Victor Albert): Returning to the underwater flipper photos, I know that these are not three-dimensional, but has anyone thought of doing some sort of hydrodynamic analysis to see if it is a viable shape for a fast-moving animal?

Shine: I believe somebody did a little work on that, referring to the apparent central stiffening in the flipper image, but coming to the conclusion that it apparently wasn't so. I wish to remain out of that controversy, but I would indicate that the Australian lungfish has an excellent fin with a central stiffening--

Comment: --which swims very much slower...

Shine: Actually, it crawls. It's not a swimming element at all. A fish swims with its tail. So, in my personal view, if the flipper picture really shows a part of a large animal, then I would be happier with it being the fin of a fish.

Question (Richard Greenwell): My question is addressed to Henry Bauer. It's a philosophical one, and it concerns the role Nessie plays in our belief systems. One may recall that, in times past, there were many phenomena



which remained long unrecognized by science because they didn't fit into what our belief systems of the time found acceptable, meteorites being one example; for all intents and purposes, meteorites simply didn't exist. Now they do exist. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer hadn't saved that first coelacanth in 1938; today's textbooks might still state that such forms have been extinct for over 60 million years.

So, what I'm trying to get out of Henry through this long-winded question is: how does he feel about the role of belief systems in terms of Nessie, and what does that hold for the future if no really new compelling evidence is produced?

**Bauer:** Well, as I stated in my talk, I think the significance of Nessie is that it raises some questions to which science has no good answers. I think most of the specific questions which have been asked can be answered in two ways: if you believe in Nessie, you



Henry H. Bauer

can find a reason to believe in it, and if you disbelieve in Nessie, you can also find a reason to disbelieve in it.

I think that the best comment on our general state of knowledge at the

present time was by Lewis Thomas in a recent essay. He said that the greatest achievement of 20th century science has been the discovery of human ignorance (*laughter*). There are things about which we simply don't know enough.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In 1985, Jared Diamond, a physiologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, wrote an article very critical of cryptozoology in the popular science magazine *Discover* (see *Newsletter*, Spring, 1986). Among other things, Dr. Diamond--whorediscovered the yellow-fronted gardener bowerbird in New Guinea in 1981--emphasized the many small species which are on the brink of extinction but are being ignored. The implication was that cryptozoology is somehow partly to blame for this: that the focus on large animals leaves the small animals unloved and unprotected. Several other critics have also voiced this thesis.

How can one respond to this? Well, in the first place, cryptozoology is not concerned with large animals. It is concerned with unknown/undiscovered/thought-extinct animals for which there is some form of human attestation. If many of these animals happen to be larger than smaller, that is not the fault of cryptozoology; it is simply a reflection of the fact that it is a human trait for native peoples and others to attach

greater cultural significance to larger animals than to smaller ones. Secondly, cryptozoology is not a conservation function. While I am sure that most of its members are conservation-minded, the Society cannot possibly be involved with all the many non-cryptozoological animals which are threatened with demise. This is the job of the many local, national, and international wildlife and conservation agencies.

Just recently, similar critical thoughts have again been expressed, this time in Australia. In an editorial in the magazine *Australian Natural History* (Vol. 23, No. 3, Summer--Winter in the northern hemisphere--1989-90), editor Fiona Doig states: "One would think that, given the current level of concern and support for the environment, work to improve the survival chances for those on the brink is urgent. Apparently, this isn't the case. There are people dedicated to pouring endless money, energy and time into the hope of finding living relics [sic] of extinct species.... Why put so much into rediscovering one species when the same

input could have saved so many others?"

Doig believes that the money put into searches for the thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger), for example, "could have, in the long run, saved many more living species," and she applies the same logic to the search for "yetis, yowies, Loch Ness monsters and abominable snowmen. Interesting stuff and maybe they do exist. But again, with many known species on the brink of extinction it seems like so much hypocrisy."

Now, cryptozoologists have been called many things over the years, a few of which are unprintable here. The kinder criticisms have suggested that cryptozoologists are merely ignorant, naive, or deluded. But they have never before been called hypocrites. This allegation, I think, warrants a little more discussion.

Just what is it that cryptozoology is supposed to do about all the threatened species? It is of interest here that a recent study by the U.S. Department of the Interior on the status of its endangered species program--managed by one its agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service--found that there is a



backlog of about 600 species which deserve immediate conservation attention, but which have not yet even been listed under the Endangered Species Act. The report by the Department's Office of the Inspector General stated that about 3,000 other species probably also need protection, but are not receiving any attention at all.

As the Fish and Wildlife Service is only able to list about one species a week, it will take, at the present rate, about 70 years for the status of all such species to be reviewed and for measures to be taken. By then, it will probably be too late for many of them. And that doesn't even count the species which will almost surely become threatened in the intervening period.

What is the cause of this situation? Besides supposed poor management, it is money. The Service is allocated \$33 million a year for the endangered species program, but the Interior report states that, in reality, \$4.6 billion would be needed to protect all known endangered species. That's 140 times as much! Furthermore, it would cost another \$4.6 billion to institute recovery plans for all such species. That's \$9.2 billion.

Thus, what the U.S. government should do, according to the Interior report, is allocate the same kinds of resources to endangered species as it allocates to NASA for the space program or to AID for foreign assistance. I don't know what the endangered species budgets are in other countries, but I would guess that the situation is no better than in the U.S.

The hard cash that the International Society of Cryptozoology is able to raise every year from memberships and donations is barely enough to cover printing costs and operational expenses. Occasionally, some of its members may spend a few hundred dollars, or sometimes a few thousand dollars, on cryptozoological fieldwork. Altogether, however, I doubt if all cryptozoologists combined spend more than \$60-70,000 a year on their pursuits--including membership in the Society!

But let's be generous. Let's say that, combined, we actually spend \$100,000 a year. What would Doig have us do? Fork over \$100,000 to our respective governments specifically for endangered species protection? The U.S. share would be about \$50,000. How far would that go in the Fish and Wildlife Service's \$33 million budget (or its ideal budget of \$9.2 billion)? One could even ask how much of it would be spent on actually protecting species--rather than on bureaucracy.

To be fair, Doig does not aim her criticisms only at cryptozoology-- which she describes as "a branch of research dedicated to finding mythical beasts of rumored existence"--but also to conservationists who focus on saving particular "popular" animals, such as the koala, while other, smaller animals go wanting. She raises an interesting question: "Are koalas more important than rats? Whales more than fish?"

Even so, she seems to reserve her sharpest barbs for cryptozoologists. Concerning animals thought extinct, she suggests that perhaps "it is through the

guilt of our ancestors brought to bear on us by eliminating so many species that we feel obliged to rediscover them." The problem is that "extinction is the end. Final. No curtain calls. Yet we wait with baited [sic] breath hoping to lure a species back from its fate. If science hasn't found a way of waking the dead, what hope is there of exhuming the extinct?"

It seems to me that Doig is confusing "extinct" in the real world with "extinct" as perceived by humans. They are usually the same thing, but sometimes a presumed-extinct animal does survive, and, if rediscovered, can even be saved from eventual extinction. The takahe bird rediscovered in New Zealand in 1948 is a case in point. I often wonder how many other species may have been rediscovered--and possibly saved from extinction--had the authorities of the time done their duty and taken heed of anecdotal or native information--what today we call cryptozoology. Here, the giant elephant birds of Madagascar come to mind.

I hope I am speaking for all Society members when I state that Doig's comments on the role of cryptozoology are ill-founded and unfair, and I reject them. Cryptozoology is not responsible--and cannot be held responsible--for the perilous state of our planet's fauna. We can only do our own little part in our own small way. And let those charged with conservation--with whatever budgets they are given--be responsible for conservation.

J. Richard Greenwell  
Editor

## GOOD NEWS FOR UK/EUROPEAN MEMBERS

British members may now pay for membership or back publications in £ sterling not just to the ISC Secretariat for Europe, in Switzerland, but also to the main Secretariat in Arizona. More liberal banking restrictions now allow the Society to deposit sterling checks in a U.S. bank without having to pay exorbitant banking charges. However, such checks or drafts must be drawn on U.K. banks.

Although members may send £ payments to either Switzerland or Arizona, it is recommended that payments for

back publications be sent to Switzerland, as the Secretariat has a complete stock of back issues and those can be delivered much faster than from Arizona.

At the same time, British members may now also establish a bankers' order for automatic payment of the annual membership fee every March. Those wishing to avail themselves of this procedure may request the respective Bankers' Order Form from Dr. Ned Winn, ISC Secretary for Europe, 25 chemin de Trembley, 1197 Prangins,

Switzerland.

It is also hoped that, with upcoming closer monetary ties between European countries, it will be much simpler for Continental members to make payments to ISC, perhaps using Eurocheques. These possibilities are being investigated, and methods of future European payment to the Society will be announced. In the past, many European members have been burdened with extremely high bank charges, and we hope that this will soon be a thing of the past. □



## FIRST JOURNAL ISSUE REPRINTING

It finally happened. Vol. 1 of Crypto-zoology, published when the Society was first founded in 1982, is out of stock.

The numbers have been dwindling for some time, and the Board of Directors has been agonizing over what to do about it. We could simply drop that issue from the back-order forms, and inform members that it is no longer available. However, it seems that there are enough sales to members--particularly new members--to warrant a reprinting. Some new members, in fact, like buying the complete set of back issues, something they may not do if there is one issue missing.

Reprintings are expensive, although

less so than original printings, as there are no typesetting and photo preparation costs. Even so, the Society, which is always in a tight financial situation, would have great difficulty in paying for publication of the normal annual journal, plus the reprinting of Vol 1. Journal reprinting is really like an investment: eventually, after a number of years, the Society will recover the reprinting expense--and even make a profit. The problem, however, is that it does not have the liquid funds to make the investment!

Thus, the Board has developed the following scheme. First, it is hereby confirmed that the Society intends to reprint Vol 1; second, it is hereby requested that all members who have

an interest in purchasing it send in their orders now, with their US\$18 (or £11 sterling) payments, which include postage. These payments will then go into a reprinting fund, and as soon as the reprinting is done, the journals will be mailed to the respective members. About 70 orders would cover the cost of the reprinting. Five orders are already in, and the Society could handle it if about 30-40 more orders are received.

Thus, all members who joined after 1982 and never purchased this first issue are encouraged to help the Society by ordering it now. Vol. 1 article titles are listed with those of all other back publications at the rear of the last (1989, Vol. 8) journal. This listing also appears on all back-order forms sent to new members.

## BACK PUBLICATIONS DISCOUNTS

Did you know that an African zoologist claims to have seen Mokele-Mbembe, the supposed sauropod dinosaur of the Congo? Did you know that an oceanographer has been able to calculate the sizes of the objects appearing in the Wilson and Mansi photos taken at Loch Ness and Lake Champlain? Or that an anthropologist has formally equated Sasquatch (Big-foot) with the giant fossil primate Gigantopithecus? Or that a giant octopus, a form not recognized by zoology, has been blamed for deep-sea fishing disruptions off Bermuda?

If all these things are news to you, then you are probably a relatively new member, one who has not seen back issues of the Newsletter and the annual journal Cryptozoology. Such back issues contain all this information, and much, much more. The good news is that all back issues are available (except Vol. 1 of the journal, which is to be reprinted soon). Back journals sell for US\$18 (or £11) each, postage included; back newsletters sell for \$3 (or £1.75) each, postage included.

The extra good news is that, starting on July 1, 1990, volume discounts are being granted. The formula is as follows: all orders above \$100 (or £60)

receive a 10% discount, and all orders above \$200 (or £120) receive a 15% discount. Newsletter and journal orders may be combined to qualify.

The Society has a large stock of something members want: publications; and members have a large stock of something the Society desperately needs: money. It is hoped that both parties can be made happy by exchanging these two commodities. Not a new idea perhaps, but one which might help the Society substantially. The discounts are a way of telling members the deal is serious.

The back of Vol. 8 (1989) of Crypto-zoology lists the titles of all articles appearing in previous journals and newsletters. These listings also appear on back-order forms sent to all new members. Any member can request these free forms from the Secretariat. By buying back issues, members will not only learn what has been going on in cryptozoology over the past decade, but they will also be helping the Society financially. The Society made the investment in printing these publications in years past, and the only costs now are in storage and postage. Thus, all members are urged to buy back issues --whether they buy enough to get the discounts or not! □

## BEST NAMED MAMMAL JOURNAL EDITOR

Troy Best, a member of the Editorial Board of Cryptozoology, has been appointed editor of the Journal of Mammalogy, published by the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM). This quarterly publication, now in its 71st year, is considered the most important mammal journal in the world, and is received by almost 4,000 zoologists worldwide.

A mammalogist at Auburn University, in Alabama, Dr. Best also serves as editor of the monograph series Mammalian Species, likewise published by ASM. This series, authored by specialists on particular groups of mammals, recently reached No. 337. The series began in 1971, but as there are about 4,170 recognized living mammal species, the project is not expected to end any time soon!

Our congratulations to Dr. Best on his prestigious new appointment. □

"For us believing physicists, the distinction between past, present, and future is only an illusion, even if a stubborn one."

Albert Einstein  
German theoretical physicist



# NEW CHINESE WILDMAN INVESTIGATION

Society members J. Richard Greenwell and Frank E. Poirier visited China in October/November, 1989, to evaluate the evidence for the Chinese Wildman. Greenwell, who serves as ISC Secretary, and Poirier, who serves on the Editorial Board of the Society's journal, *Cryptozoology*, returned to the U.S. with a more positive attitude than when they departed, both proposing that a large primate "inconsistent with the known fauna of China" may be responsible for Wildman sighting reports.

The *yeren*, as it is known in Chinese, has been reported since antiquity. Modern reports trickled out of China after that country's opening up to the West, but much of the information has filtered through news media sources and become distorted. Zhou Guoxing, a paleoanthropologist at the Beijing Natural History Museum--who serves on the ISC Board of Directors--summarized the situation in the first issue of *Cryptozoology* ("The Status of Wildman Research in China," Vol. 1, 1982). Zhou is moderately skeptical, but does not rule out the Yeren, proposing that the fossil genus *Gigantopithecus* would be the most likely candidate. This is also the favorite candidate of Sasquatch (Bigfoot) investigators in the U.S.A. and Canada.

In 1977, the Chinese Academy of Sciences sponsored a large-scale Yeren investigation in Hubei Province. The one-year field effort involved about 100 people--including Zhou--but no conclusive evidence was obtained. Later, a private Wildman Research Association was formed, but its members have so far been unable to demonstrate the existence of an unknown primate.

Poirier, a physical anthropologist at Ohio State University, had worked in China several times before--studying that country's primates--and had looked into the Yeren question. Until recently, he remained highly skeptical, as can be ascertained from an article published some years ago in *Cryptozoology* ("The Evidence for Wildman in Hubei Province, People's Republic of China," Vol. 2, 1983).

After meeting in Beijing, Greenwell and Poirier flew to Shanghai, where they were briefed by Professor Liu Mingzhuang, secretary of the Wildman Association. From there they flew to Wuhan, in Hubei Province, and interviewed Cheng Lian Sheng, a witness to a 1976 close-up sighting. Cheng and his companions, all forestry officials at the time, had reportedly cornered a Yeren against a road embankment, and it was

this incident which sparked the 1977 Academy of Sciences fieldwork.

From Wuhan, Greenwell and Poirier proceeded by boat up the Yangtze River to Wan Xian, Sichuan Province. From there, they went overland to the town of Wuxi, in the mountains, where they interviewed a number of other Yeren witnesses and obtained more information from the Wuxi Science Committee. They then went by truck through rugged mountain terrain towards Shennongjia--a preserve closed to foreigners--until the road ended at a forestry lodge. Contact was made with Li Guo Hua, a "mountain man" who has been searching for the Yeren for 10 years. Liu took them on mountain treks, during which they were able to observe the nature and extent of the terrain and vegetation.

Returning to Shanghai, Greenwell and Poirier visited Zeng Xianzhou and his colleagues in the Department of Nuclear Science at Fudan University, where Yeren hairs had been analyzed using a new analytical technique: particle-induced X-ray emission (PIXE). With a precision of within 5%, the PIXE analysis determined that the proportion of iron to zinc in all the submitted Yeren hairs was about 50 times that found in human hairs and about 7 times that found in known (non-human) primate hairs.

Similarly, Cao Hanmin, in the Department of Biology at East China Normal University, also in Shanghai, showed the visitors important structural differences between the Yeren hairs and known primate hairs. The differences were found when comparing cuticular scales, medulla, and pigment granules by use of a scanning electron microscope.

Flying west again, Greenwell and Poirier visited Guangxi Province, in the south, near Vietnam. There they visited the famous Linzhou cave, where the *Gigantopithecus* fossil jaws had been found in the 1950's. The cave had been closed during the Cultural Revolution and was then essentially abandoned. By use of a rope ladder, they were able to



Richard Greenwell (left) and Frank Poirier in the mountains of Sichuan.



climb a cliff to the cave itself, which they then inspected--reportedly the first Westerners ever to do so.

Greenwell and Poirier also visited and discussed the Yeren problem with scientists at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, in Yunnan Province, the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, in Beijing, and, of course, Zhou Guoxing. The results of their investigations are summarized in a Field Report in the last issue of Cryptozoology ("Further Investigations into the Reported Yeren--the Wildman of China," Vol 8, 1989).

In their report, the authors describe how they assigned numerical values to the evidence they had been exposed to, namely terrain/habitat, eyewitness testimony, footprint casts, and hair analyses. Based on these values, Greenwell's probability assignation of the Yeren's existence had risen from 30% when he had initially arrived in Beijing to 60% when he left China, while Poirier's had risen from a highly skeptical 5% to 52%. Since then, however--based mainly on the hair analyses, including further tests conducted since their return to the U.S.--Poirier reportedly now assigns a much higher probability to the existence of the Yeren.

If the Yeren exists, the first question that comes to mind is: "What is it?" Gigantopithecus is certainly the favorite

candidate, for a number of reasons. First, it was a giant--and probably bipedal--primate, presenting a morphology similar to that described by many witnesses; second, it is known to have lived in the same area, China; and third, it did so fairly recently, perhaps as recently as 300,000 years ago. Geologically speaking, that is like yesterday, and it requires only a small "push" to have the animal survive to the present--as does the giant panda, which also lived in the same area in the Pleistocene.

Poirier, while accepting the Yeren's probable existence, is more reluctant than Greenwell to assign it to a particular taxon. Furthermore, the picture may not be as clear-cut as it appears. During their investigation, a number of witnesses informed them that the primate they saw was quadrupedal--a fact not previously brought to light. This, coupled with the reported red hair and, in at least one case (Cheng, the forestry worker), a large belly, make them suspect that a zoologically unknown population of orang-utans exists in China. This cryptic population, surviving in remote montane areas and seen only occasionally, would probably represent a different subspecies from the known Southeast Asian form, and possibly a different species. As fossil teeth of large Pleistocene orangs have also been found in China, it is even possible that it represents this fossil giant, till now considered extinct.

After evaluating all the evidence they obtained, they believe that the Yeren question can be reduced to four possibilities: 1) that all sighting reports are of known animals, and the Yeren is simply a myth; 2) that Gigantopithecus survives and is responsible for at least some of the reports; 3) that some form of cryptic Chinese orang survives and is responsible for at least some of the reports; or 4) that both Gigantopithecus and a form of orang survive in China, both being referred to as Yeren when seen.

As for their personal conclusions, they state in Cryptozoology: "It is our opinion that numerous known primates (including Homo sapiens) have been labeled 'Wildman' (Yeren); that there is a high probability that one and possibly two different genera of unknown or cryptic primates may also be involved (one of them being Pongo, an orang-utan); that the matter remains unresolved; and that further investigation is certainly warranted." However, they caution that "due to difficulties of terrain and logistics, as well as socio-cultural, political, and linguistic factors, such future investigations will not be easy to conduct."

The Greenwell-Poirier fieldwork was filmed by a British television production company and is being broadcast in Britain by Channel 4 and in the U.S.A. by PBS/WGBH Boston. It will also be broadcast in numerous other countries.

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

After a drop in the number of Sustaining Members in 1989--attributed to the dues increase from \$25 to \$30--the number of donations in 1990 is very gratifying. Many members came to the Society's aid in early 1990 when they heard that it was, once again, in financial trouble, and, when renewing for 1990, many more members have been adding \$5 or \$10--or more--to their dues. The total number of Sustaining Members for 1990 at presstime is 144, already above the 128 for 1989, but still less than the 1988 total of 156.

The Society, which is a not-profit organization, receives no outside support whatsoever. Its only income is derived from memberships, sales of

back publications, and donations from members. Members who have already renewed for 1990, and new members who have recently joined, are reminded that it is never too late in the year to make a donation to the Society. In fact, it is often late in the year--when most members' minds are on other things--that the Society's cash flow status drops to practically zero. All those who donate automatically have their status changed to Sustaining Member. The Winter, 1990, newsletter will list all Sustaining Members for the year.

This voluntary support by many members is very much appreciated, even if it is not usually possible to write and thank each member individually. □

"New ideas should be regarded as precious, and should be carefully nursed; especially if they seem to be a bit wild. I do not suggest that we should be eager to accept new ideas just for the sake of their newness. But we should be anxious not to suppress a new idea, even if it does not appear to us to be very good."

Sir Karl Popper  
"The Rationality of Scientific  
Revolutions,"  
in Scientific Revolutions  
(Ian Hacking, ed.)  
Oxford University Press, 1981

"The past is never dead; it is not even past."

William Faulkner  
American writer



## CRYPTOLETTERS

*The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning.*

To the Editor:

Your interviews with Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer and Hendrik Goosen (*Newsletter*, Spring, 1989) were very valuable historically to the coelacanth story.

We want to thank you for permitting our Society to include a copy of your special 50th anniversary newsletter as an addendum to our own SPOOF Newsletter No. 37. Numerous SPOOF members have written to us to express their enjoyment and appreciation of your account and interviews.

You are further to be congratulated, as editor of *Cryptozoology*, for persuading Miss Courtenay-Latimer to contribute her own article on the discovery in that journal.

George and Susan Brown  
Society for the Protection of Old Fishes (SPOOF)  
School of Fisheries  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

Concerning the publication of the Nessie symposium proceedings in *The Scottish Naturalist* (*Newsletter*, Autumn, 1989), I just want to rectify, for the historical record, a slight mistake. All three parts of the 1988 Centennial issue were, in fact, printed in 1988, the last part towards the end of December--the printer had to be paid overtime to complete the job in time!

Jack A. Gibson  
The Scottish Natural  
History Library  
Kilbarchan, Scotland, U.K.

To the Editor:

According to the Instructions to Contributors of the ISC journal

*Cryptozoology*, Articles and Research Reports submitted for publication must be reviewed and approved by at least two independent referees prior to publication acceptance. Specifically, the papers submitted are reviewed for scientific content, originality, and clarity of expression.

In my view, this refereeing policy has served the Society well. From all that I have seen and heard in the 7 years that I have been an ISC member, it is clear that the journal is recognized as a quality, scholarly publication, strong on scientific rigor and objectivity. In a field as controversial as cryptozoology, this is no small accomplishment, and one for which the Editor and his staff, and the referees themselves, are surely to be congratulated.

At the same time, I have been distressed by a current of thought encountered at a recent ISC Membership Meeting. In informal conversations with several participants, I heard questions raised as to the need for the refereeing of manuscripts submitted to *Cryptozoology*. These questions were directed particularly to contributions from authors recognized as experts in their fields.

The argument was presented that such authors know more than anyone else about the subject matter which they are presenting, so that any refereeing by others is superfluous. Furthermore, it was stated, omitting refereeing would save time and contribute to faster publication of the journal.

I would like to take strong issue with this viewpoint.

In stating this, I do not dispute that a recognized expert knows more about his field of specialization than anyone else. However, as the ISC Instructions to Contributors puts it: Papers are refereed for scientific content, originality, and clarity of expression--in short, scientific quality. Apart from the fact that sacrificing quality to save time is inexcusable in science, a particular referee--e.g., in a different but related field--may perceive shortcomings in the presentation of the material. For example, there may be omission of supporting points which are self-evident to the author by virtue of his extensive knowledge of his subject, but which are not

obvious to readers with other backgrounds.

Further, by virtue of his different background and different base of knowledge, a referee may well be able to offer new and useful ideas. These can take the form, for example, of a differing interpretation of observations, or a suggestion of further relationships overlooked by the author simply because they derived from a different base of knowledge.

Finally, even the greatest can make mistakes! It is certainly the duty of referees to catch these. In my opinion, it is clear that such input by referees can only contribute to improving the overall quality of a paper submitted for publication.

We in cryptozoology, above all, should be sensitive to the need for scientific quality--absolute scientific integrity, rigor, and objectivity. We are often--too often--the target of derision and scorn by "mainstream" scientists, in particular by those whose minds are closed and who reject controversial new findings because they contradict established knowledge. In my view, the only effective way to overcome such negativism is to continue to present rigorous scientific work which is well-supported by experimental evidence, clearly presented, and logically interpreted. As I see it, the examination by two independent referees of contributions for publication is an essential part of this process.

Perhaps I can offer a few examples in support of the above points from my own experience, long, long ago, in the field of physics (it was really in the 1940's and 1950's--although it now seems like the Late Bronze Age).

At that time, a number of outstanding scientists were generally recognized as world authorities in their fields: Al Nier at the University of Minnesota, the father of mass spectroscopy; Jesse Beams at the University of Virginia, the leader in ultracentrifuge technology; Percy Bridgeman at Harvard University, world expert in phenomena at ultrahigh pressures. I had the privilege of knowing and working with these leaders--physics was a small world in those days. They all published extensively, their papers were all refereed by others, and they all



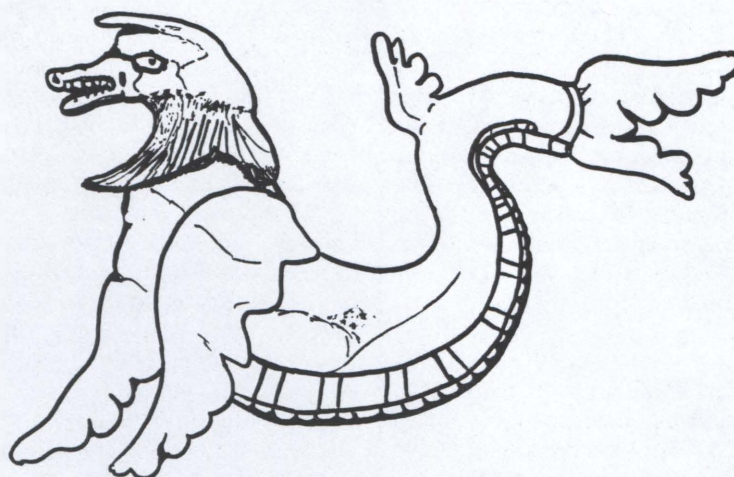
agreed--sometimes reluctantly--that their papers were improved by refereeing.

In the field of cryptozoology there are also recognized leading experts, e.g., Bernard Heuvelmans, generally recognized as the "father" of cryptozoology, Grover Krantz and John Green, the leading authorities on the Sasquatch, Roy Mackal and Robert Rines, experts on the Loch Ness Monster, and so forth. I feel confident that these gentlemen would agree that their papers have at times been improved by refereeing.

Edward. B. Winn  
Prangins, Switzerland

To the Editor:

I attach a drawing based on a photograph of a sarcophagus detail from the Etruscan period (c. 3rd to 2nd century B.C.) in Etruria, Italy. This alabaster burial artifact is displayed in the Field Museum on Natural History, in Chicago. The "sea monster" depicted brought the idea of Heuvelmans' "merhorse" to mind. As the sculptured animal included some detail, I thought that it might be useful to other members.



The animal appears in a scene facing a tree, on the opposite side of which appears a similar animal. At the far left is a doorway, possibly the route to the Underworld, and at the far right is the huge monster's head, appearing somewhat boar-like.

Etruscan artifacts are often decorated with dragon-like forms. Perhaps this merhorse is a fanciful product of Etruscan imagination; or perhaps it is another indication of independent witnessing of the same animal reported in

the oceans in modern times.

Michael D. Swords  
Science Department  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A.

"I await your sentence with less fear than you pass it. The time will come when all will see what I see."

Giordano Bruno  
Italian philosopher, burned at the stake for heresy by the Inquisition

## CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL SONICS ON CD

Great Orm Productions has released a compact disk by composer-synthesist Keeler titled The Present Link. Described as "a fusion of science and art," the CD contains 12 instrumental impressions of cryptozoological phenomena. These sonic constructions include themes based on Champ, Morgawr, Issie, Sasquatch, Almas, and the Yeti. Geographical locations and brief notes on each subject are included in the CD booklet.

According to Great Orm, Keeler--an

ISC member--"approaches each of his subjects with an impressionist's brush, attempting to capture the essence of the creatures. His pieces are neither frivolous nor ponderous, but are serious, optimistic musings from the perspective of an informed cryptozoological enthusiast."

The cost of the CD is US\$15 postpaid for U.S. and Canadian orders. (US\$17 for orders from other countries). Members wishing to purchase the CD should order directly from: Department

C, Great Orm Productions, 496-A Hudson St., Suite D-35, New York, NY 10014. □

"A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged; it is the skin of a living thought, and may vary greatly in color and content according to the circumstances and time in which it is used."

Oliver Wendell Holmes  
U.S. Supreme Court Justice  
Towne vs. Eisner, 245  
U.S. 418, 425 (1918)

The ISC Newsletter is not issued for permanent scientific record, and thus, for the purposes of zoological nomenclature, does not fulfill the criteria for publication as defined in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

Archival Material: Members are urged to send to the ISC Secretariat copies of cryptozoology-related newspaper reports, popular magazine articles, and scientific papers. Recently published material is particularly welcome, but old and obscure items are also of interest. It is better for the Secretariat to have two or three copies of an article than none at all; so, when in doubt, send. All submissions should clearly indicate a full reference; e.g. name of publication, date, and--in the case of scientific papers--volume and page numbers. In most cases, because of the volume of mail, members will not receive an acknowledgment of receipt, but all items submitted are carefully read, are often used in the Newsletter, and are preserved for posterity.



# WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The largest deer in the world is the Alaskan moose, *Alces alces gigas*, of the forested areas of Alaska, west Yukon and northwest British Columbia. Adult bulls average 6ft (1.8m) to the top of the humped shoulder, and scale about 1,100lb (500kg). Cows are about 25 percent smaller.

Shoulder heights of up to 8ft, 6in (2.59m) and estimated weights up to 2,600lb (1,179kg) have been claimed for this subspecies, but as Seton (1925-27) points out, the shoulder height of the Alaskan moose may be 8-10in (20-25cm) less than the same measurement taken between pegs. Similarly, no reliable weights have been published for large moose shot in Alaska, but a bull standing 6ft, 6in (1.98m) at the shoulder and in good condition would be expected to weigh about 1,400lb (635kg).

Two bulls shot at Funny River, Alaska, measured 6ft, 6.25in (1.99m) and 6ft, 9.25in (2.06m) respectively between pegs, but although these statistics sound impressive, both these animals were probably not much above average size. They are now on display at the American Museum of Natural History.

According to Whitehead (1972), the Alaskan moose reaches its maximum size on the Kenai Peninsula, where exceptionally large bulls "may" measure up to 7ft, 6in (2.29m) at the shoulder, and weigh nearly 1,800lb (816kg), but as this is the height of an average adult cow Indian elephant, this measurement needs to be authenticated. Rowland Ward (1910) are more cautious, and say bulls of this race reach a maximum height of 6ft, 9in (2.06m) at the

shoulder, and a weight of 1,600lb (726kg).

Probably the largest Alaskan moose on record was a bull shot by Dall de Weese on the Yukon River in September, 1897, which measured 7ft, 8in (2.34m) between pegs, and weighed an estimated 1,800lb (816kg). Another massive bull killed in 1918 reportedly measured 8ft, 7in (2.62m) from heel to hump, and had an antler spread of 63.5in (1.61m).

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982.

*(In Europe, moose are known as elk, while in North America red deer are known as elk. In Europe, red deer are also called wapiti; this can lead to much confusion!--Editor)*

Field Medical Advisor: Michael J. Manyak, M.D., Department of Urology, George Washington University Medical Center, 2150 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Honorary Members: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); John Green (Canada); The Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (U.K.); Marie-Jeanne Koffmann (U.S.S.R.); Ingo Krumbiegel (Germany); Theodore Monod (France); Robert Titmus (Canada).

Benefactors: G.A. Buder, III (U.S.A.); Robert C. Dorion (Guatemala); Michael T. Martin (U.S.A.); Gale J. Raymond (U.S.A.); Hugh H. Trotti, Jr. (U.S.A.); Kurt Von Nieda (U.S.A.); Edward B. Winn (Switzerland); Bette Wolfskill (U.S.A.); Count F.C. Zedlitz (Argentina).

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